

# BLOCKADE AND SIEGE OF PORTLAND, MAINE

ARMY AGAINST NAVY IN THE  
FINAL STAGE OF THE GREAT  
FLEET MANOEUVRES



Two Maine regiments of the National Guard, with signal corps and ambulance corps; two batteries of light artillery from Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, and two regiments from New York, one of heavy artillery.

One purpose of the War Department in utilizing National Guardsmen for this drill is to familiarize the men in the work of manning the coast defence batteries, with a view of ultimately placing upon them a great share of the responsibility of coast defence.

To assail the ports and their defenders the fleet under Admiral Barker will put to sea on the night of August 22, its immediate destination unknown except to the commander in chief. The point of attack is to be Portland, but the defenders must find out for themselves just when the blow will fall.

By the rules two attacks must be made, one by day, the other under the cover of darkness. The Admiral may elect to attempt a surprise and make his first attack by night, or, conscious of the strength of the fleet which he commands, he may steam in by broad daylight and leave to impartial umpires to say whether the four forts of the city are smoking ruins, with their dead heaped high about them, or whether the attacking fleet has been hove out of water by exploding mines or put out of action by gun or mortar fire.

**Very Exciting**

Altogether, a lurid and exciting play. War is not, and never can be, an exact

existing between the two branches may be "all further accentuated."

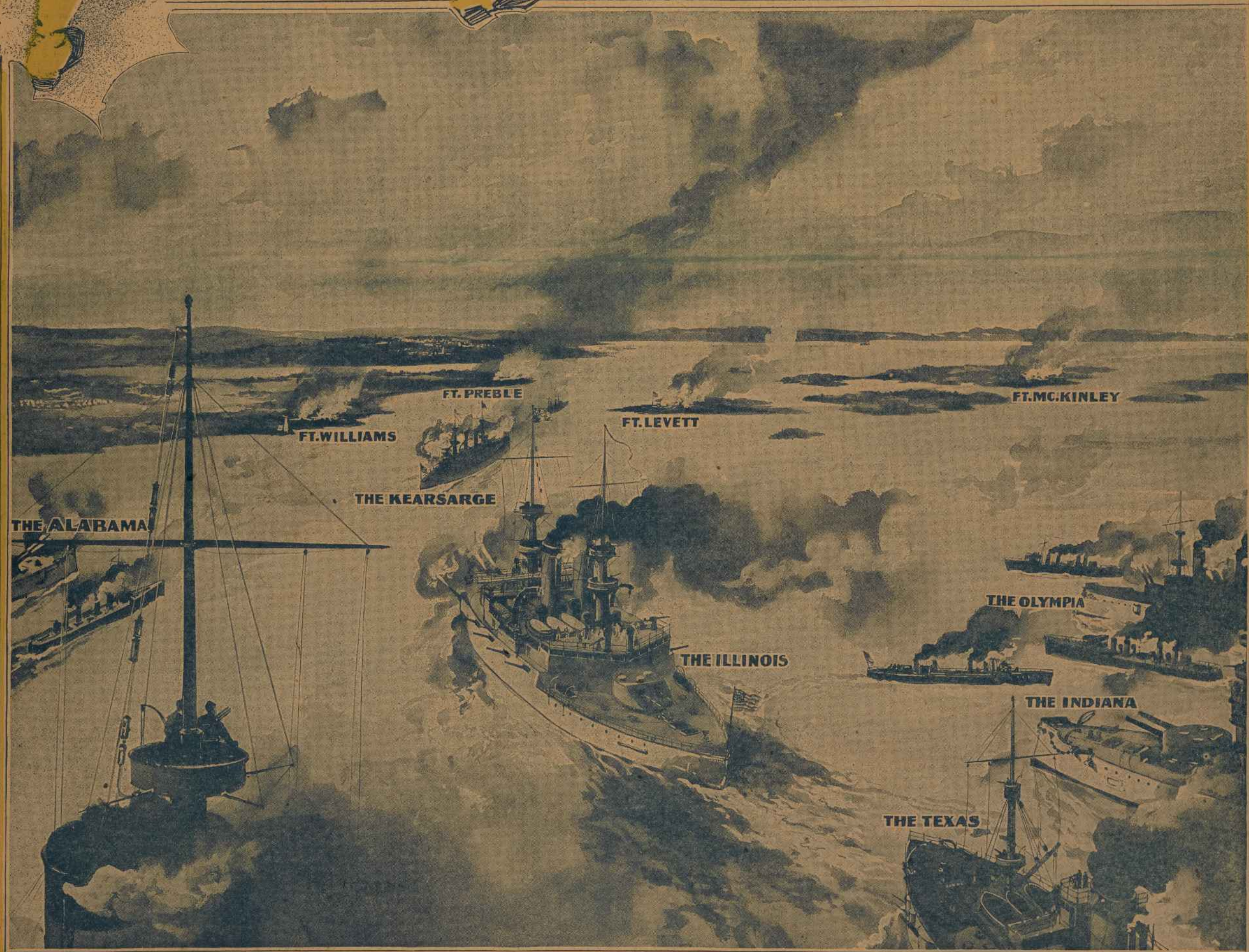
This savage war of peace will come on the departure of the fleet, and in the ensuing forty-eight hours of truce the men charged with the defence of Portland must see to it that everything has been done that military skill can accomplish before the armistice has elapsed. It is assumed that the war has burst suddenly on the country and that the city to be first menaced has had but forty-eight hours' warning.

It is during these days that the harbor approaches must be mined and such other obstructions placed in the channel as engineering skill would suggest. The location of these mines is now a carefully guarded secret, neither the number nor location being disclosed. The reason of this secrecy, of course, is that no information regarding the mines should reach the "enemy," who, if possessed of this knowledge, might turn it to his own advantage.

**Most Exciting of Tag-ants**

It promises to be one of the most gunpowdery and explosive pageants that has ever taken place on this side of the Atlantic. But back of the spectacular features is a purpose which both army and navy have much at heart. There are three problems at issue with these men in blue—three which have important bearing on modern war and which it is believed that this mimic game will do much to solve.

The points to be determined are—First, control of fire, night and day; second, operation and searchlights; third, use of



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF THE OPERATIONS AGAINST PORTLAND.

"PORTLAND to-day is as impregnable as the army can make it, and I am not anxious about the result." In these few words General George L. Gillespie, Chief of Engineers of the army, summed up the outcome of the effort which the army has been so sedulously making to meet the storm so soon to burst upon that city, the attack of the navy upon the port, and in which every available naval vessel in North Atlantic waters will take part. There will be the crash of heavy guns and the glare of searchlights, the eruption of mortar pits, the exploding of mines and all the rest that goes with the death grapple between a powerful fleet and a strongly defended city.

On one side will be ranged the flower of the American navy, grouped in three divisions and led by three flag officers of renown. In this superb fleet will be no less than seven battle ships, each, in the fine faith of individual commanders, capable of smashing any fort that was ever constructed. Accompanying these hard hitters of the battle line will go the lighter and more nimble craft of the cruiser type, the ones which "Carry the daintiest Hotchkiss gun And a pair of heels wherewith to run" from the grip of a close fought fight. These, with their array of rapid fire guns, will be employed to sweep the works of the defenders and to protect the landing of naval battalions in case such landing can be made.

To defend the port from this furious onslaught two thousand regulars and nearly twice as many National Guardsmen will garrison the place. Harbor defences. The harbor defences comprise four forts. The oldest of these is Fort Preble, on the South Portland shore, at the most westerly point bordering the entrance to the inner harbor. It has within the last few years been equipped with a battery of sixteen mortars. Fort Williams, the next oldest fortification now in permanent use, is located on the Cape Elizabeth shore, near the outer point of the harbor entrance, within a rifle shot of the Cape Elizabeth Lighthouse. It has disappearing and rapid fire guns, twelve in all. Across the main channel from Fort Williams is Cushing's Island, on the southerly side of which has within a year been established Fort Levett, which has a 12-inch, two 10-inch and four 5-inch guns, beside several small rapid fire guns. Fort McKinley, said to be the best equipped of New England's coast defences, has five batteries of big guns, commanding a range of every entrance to the harbor. This fort is on the easterly side of Great Diamond Island, just east of Great Diamond is Cow Island, on which has been established a battery especially designed to guard the lower entrances to the harbor. Since early spring the army has been preparing for this attack, and since July company after company of artillery and

infantry have been arriving day by day, reinforcing the garrison regularly stationed here. Mines will have been laid in every one of the harbor approaches, and a systematic patrol will be organized. A wireless telegraph station has been established, and by the use of powerful searchlights the harbor will be illuminated to prevent a night attack. The Signal Corps will have stations in the vicinity of Portland and elsewhere along the New England coast, where a sharp lookout will be kept for a sight of the enemy. Co-operating with the Signal Corps will be the Weather Bureau and the Lighthouse service, and observers at the various stations on the New England coast, as well as the Lighthouse keepers, will be instructed to watch out for sight of news of the hostile fleet. Strength of the Militia. The militia organizations which are to support the regulars consist of the Massachusetts First regiment of heavy artillery, comprising twelve companies; the

science. If it were there would be no war. Nor can there be anything exact in the work of determining which side wins in this collision between an irresistible force and an immovable body. But science, which plays so large a part in these efforts that make so much toward perfecting the defensive energies of the nation, has formulated a plan by which the result can be approximated. It worked fairly well during the manoeuvres of last year and is expected to give an even more accurate knowledge in the coming test. This measuring of strength between fleet and forts is to extend over a period of five days, from August 23 to August 28. "The period of preparation," as it has been designated, begins forty-eight hours before and it is during this period that the fleet must put to sea and the army make ready for its reception, not "with bloody hands to a hospitable grave," but to a contest which is to have all the elements of battle save actual bodily danger, and one in which the acute rivalry already

infantry and light artillery in preventing the forts from being attacked in the rear by landing forces. (CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE.)